

The Baptist Record

Thursday, April 16, 1992

Published Since 1877

"Jesus said, . . . 'I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live' " (John 11:24).

Mississippi BSU Russia project is completed

TEMPLE OF THE GOSPEL IN ST. PETERSBURG DEDICATED

By Weaver McCracken

In March of 1990, I first went to what was then Leningrad, Russia, to help plan for some 50 Southern Baptist college students who would travel that summer to help Baptist Christians establish a new church.

The project was the renovation of the Temple of the Gospel in Leningrad (St. Petersburg) — a turn of the century former Russian Orthodox cathedral. "What could largely unskilled American students possibly do to impact this situation?" I was assured that they were needed and that they would be taken care of while in the country.

Mississippi college students were a part of the first wave. Our students were among the first to go into the Soviet Union to do legitimate mission work, and were involved in a historically significant project.

Students returned home and talked of their experiences, describing the

poverty and the primitive work environment. They also talked of the fervent faith of their Russian hosts and the warmth of their hospitality. They were taken into the homes of Russian families who were members of the church. And they were given the best each family had, often at personal sacrifice.

Later on seven more teams of students from across America went to Leningrad. More radical changes came to the country; Leningrad became St. Petersburg, again. The work at the church continued. Eleven student teams in all eventually had gone — almost 140 people.

The weekend of Jan. 17-19, I had the privilege of being a part of the dedication of the renovated Temple of the Gospel. I wondered if I would encounter a discouraged community of believers, or how much better their worship center could look.

That weekend was a true celebration of God's leadership among a people, and achievements had far outstripped my expectations. The interior of the three story facility was complete and beautiful! The contributions of American college students, along with the help of the Foreign Mission Board, had significantly impacted the renovation and provided a strong witness of the gospel in the lives of many Russians.

I saw believers heartened and encouraged. Perhaps most important were the more than 50 new believers who were baptized into the membership of that church that weekend — new members of the Kingdom and of the family of God made possible in part because of significant BSU college student involvement in helping to build churches.

McCracken is consultant, Dept. of Student Work, MBCB.



Sergei Nikolaev, pastor, Temple of the Gospel, St. Petersburg, Russia, speaks during dedication service.

Living a balanced life

By Margaret Howard Rogers

Daniel 5:27: "Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting." Revelation 10:2: "And I saw an angel and he had in his hand a little book open; and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth."

From a king who lived an unbalanced life to an angel whose life was balanced, there is a definite truth about the importance of living a balanced life. That "little book" referred to in Revelation is representative of God's Word which must be the center of life. With God's Word at the center of the scale, with the left foot on earth and the right foot on the sea which represents the mystery of the heavenly kingdom, we can become balanced on the scales of life.

Jesus gave a formula for balance when he said in Matthew 11:29-30: "Take my yoke upon you . . . for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Since Jesus is the only perfectly balanced person we need to follow his words. A yoke is not an added burden but a balancing device meant to make the burden bearable. This yoke we are



Rogers

called to share is not simply imparted by Christ but shared with him. Balance comes by faith and we must die to self so that Christ can live his life in lovely balance through us in our work, worship, love, and play.

The Apostle Paul whose whole life was dedicated to telling the good news, establishing churches, and strengthening believers, lived such a balanced life that he came to the close of that life with satisfaction and fulfillment when he said in II Timothy 4:6-8: "The time of my departure is at hand, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith . . . there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me . . ."

It is possible in the midst of demands and activities to experience a quiet strength and find a firm center of balance. Balance in the character of God draws us to him and creates in us the desire to know him better and to take on his characteristics.

If believers centralize God's word in their lives, give priority to Christ's kingdom while loving their fellow man, give credence to earthly responsibilities, God will provide the strength and wisdom that is needed for balancing life.

Rogers lives at Rt. 4, Collins.

William Carey to celebrate Heritage Week April 20-27

Heritage Week will be celebrated at William Carey College April 20-27. According to President Jim Edwards, the week will be a time to express "gratefulness for the past" and affirm "what God has in store for us in the future as an instrument for his kingdom." The week's activities will also focus on the college's namesake, William Carey.

Heritage Week begins on April 20 with a spring mission report at chapel service, followed by a luncheon to celebrate the college's missions heritage. Baptist Student Union and athletic banquets will be held that evening. On April 22, a luncheon devoted to the college's historical heritage is scheduled and will be followed at 2:15 with the dedication of a garden on the front campus.

The Small Business Leadership Award Banquet on April 23 at 7 p.m. at the Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center will be co-sponsored by the Hattiesburg Area Chamber of Commerce and William Carey College. Honors Convocation, recognizing student achievement, is scheduled for April 24.

On April 25, a student field day and banquet will take place on the Gulf Coast campus. April 26 is William Carey College Heritage Day in churches; several Carey students and professors will speak in area churches. Heritage Week concludes on April 27 with a chapel service celebrating William Carey's diversity.

For additional information, contact Iris Easterling at William Carey College at 582-6192.



Guy Henderson

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Why seek ye the Living among the dead?

The tomb is empty. He is not here. People once laid hands on him, but not now. Time and space has a new meaning because "He is risen." The silence of the tomb did not spell death but life. Tragedy had invaded man's realm but for a moment. Now man has a new standard of judgment. The resurrected Jesus affirms that spiritual personality, not matter, is the ultimate reality.

Why do you look here for something that cannot be found? They were looking for love in all the wrong places. They were seeking, but in vain. Men seek joy where it is not to be found. They seek wealth or health, but it fades from view. He is not here. What you thought was a 33-year segment of time was a mere flash across eter-

nity's skies; just a hyphen between B.C. and A.D. Christ arose and returned to where nothing and nobody ever grows old.

It was a literal resurrection. No body could be produced to stop the words of the followers of Jesus. Roman soldiers, under penalty of death, were speechless and could produce nothing. The grave clothes remain but Christ is risen. This remains a fact and an experience of human history. Had not Christ arisen from the grave his death would have been a denial of everything he claimed. He claimed to be Life. He claimed to be able to give it eternally to others. He never told a lie. The resurrection shouts success to the cross; the atoning death is valid. The shout is heard from heaven to hell. The

grave is conquered and there is victory over Satan, and lo, I am with you always. Thanks be unto God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of his return. All history is headed toward this climax. This motivates us to faithfulness in the proclamation of the gospel, knowing that the power that raised Christ from the dead is available to set us free. Bill Gaither said it well:

"And then one day I'll cross the river

I'll fight life's final war with pain;

And then as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives."

Older adults don't deserve treatment society gives them

By Terri Lackey

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP) — Society's contagious misconception of aging as undesirable shoves a huge group of adults into a category they do not deserve, a Christian researcher said.

"This country has a serious perception problem with aging. In a nutshell, the world views aging as not a very desirable thing," said Steve Taylor, an official with Age Wave Inc. of Emeryville, Ca.

Taylor's company studies the demographics of an aging population and the implications for churches. He spoke to a group of senior adult leaders during a conference at West Oakey Church in Las Vegas, March 26-28. "A Celebration of Life — The Senior Adult Years," was a partnership event with the Nevada Baptist Convention, the Southern Nevada Baptist Association, and the Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Taylor said the country is youth-obsessed, and advertising campaigns aimed at obtaining more youthful appearances prove it.

"Youth is where it's at," he said.

The world views older adults as angry, cranky, self-centered, complaining, dependent, vulnerable, selfish, and a burden, he said. People treat older adults in condescending ways.

"One of the single most common

complaints of older adults is that they are treated condescendingly," Taylor said. "People talk to them as if they don't understand what is being said. They speak louder, simpler, and slower."

"Personally, I think the time has come to question the world's view of aging," Taylor said.

"When the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, life expectancy was 35," Taylor said.

In the 1850s it was 40, and by 1985 that number had climbed to 75, where the figure presently stands, he reported. The average lifespan continues to rise, and should reach 90 by the turn of the century.

In a separate conference session,

Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson, Miss., asked, "Who told us that 65 was old?"

Updated age groupings place the 40-60 group as median adults and the 60-80 group as older adulthood, Pollard said. "You don't even get to say you're old until you're 80."

"What makes us feel old before our time are the M&M twins — media and mirrors," Pollard said.

"Mirrors can lie to you. They can tell you you're old, and they shouldn't," he said. "Don't let the mirror rob you of your vision."

"A person doesn't get old until he loses his enthusiasm," Pollard said. "It has nothing to do with the accumulation of years."

Lackey writes for BSSB.

Batesville pastor elected to new FMB subcommittee

CLEMSON, S.C. (BP) — In a matter related to the Foreign Mission Board's news policy, John P. Greene, chairman of the communications committee, announced a seven-member subcommittee of trustees and staff to develop guidelines for handling press conferences and sensitive news releases. The action stemmed from trustee criticism of news coverage.

The subcommittee, which will meet May 4-5 in Richmond, includes four trustees: Terry Williams of Mississippi as chairman, Bill Pace of Florida, Mike Smith of North Carolina, and Greene; and three FMB staff members: Alan Compton, vice-president for communications; Irma Duke, associate vice-president for communications support; and Bob Stanley, director of news and information, and chief of the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press.

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The pride of New Orleans

I don't go to New Orleans very often, not that I have anything against it but it's just not on the beaten path. My first visit there was in 1951 and, after a diligent search, I finally located Washington Avenue and took my first look from the streaked windows of a 1950 Plymouth. It was difficult finding the best way out of town on Friday. Eventually I learned the better route and never varied for the next two years. By then, the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary had moved to its pristine position on Gentilly Boulevard.

The creole cooking, the lovely live oaks, and banks of blooming flowers finally reached a zone of liveability and I enjoyed it. Roland Q. Leavell was the president and had a great faculty. W. W. Hamilton, a former president and nearly 80 years old, would come occasionally and teach evangelism. Parks Anderson would do the same for our mission study. Later on, I would have the privilege of serving in the Philippines with his daughter Theresa.

J. Wash Watts would have difficulty in seating all the students who would attend his class on the day we studied the 23rd Psalm. J. Hardee Kennedy would walk the hallowed halls with Daniel and Zechariah while Clayton Waddell would bring up ethical problems. His tests were akin to the lions' den. Frank Stagg and Ray Robbins made the New Testament interesting; even now I review the notes. Eugene Patterson taught evangelism and also guided our practical activities. My preaching post was at St. Ann and Perdido, and each

Tuesday evening I held my enthralled congregation of several winos and a few stragglers passing by with the wail of a police siren for the special music.

Kenneth Scott Latourette, famed historian, came one year to lecture. His books were highly interesting, but he must have been absent during homiletics. All our grades were posted under the ornate staircase of the administration building that naturally came to be known as the wailing wall. The apartment over a corner bar was the only place Roy Humphrey could find. For a year he went around bragging that he was the only preacher there living above sin. A classmate was told he had to check with the library before graduation. "Where is it?" was the reply.

Landrum Leavell, current president, was in graduate study at the time and pastored at First, Charleston, on weekends. Gray Allison, my roommate for a year, was in his doctoral studies, and is now president of the Mid-America Seminary. Ray Rust, just retired as executive director of South Carolina Baptists, was the man on campus just as Adrian Rogers of Bellevue, Memphis, was enrolling. The list could go on. Bob Simmons has just been promoted to professor of missions, having served at Oak Forest, Jackson, Meridian, and the Philippines. Charles Ray is now a mission volunteer in China. Dozens of others went on to pastor churches, teach in colleges and seminaries, and serve on various mission fields. Thanks, Southern Baptists, for making it all possible.

— GH

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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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FMB names committee to replace Keith Parks

By Robert O'Brien and Donald D. Martin

CLEMSON, S.C. (BP) — Keith Parks, president, Foreign Mission Board, drew a standing ovation from about 11,000 people gathered at Littlejohn Coliseum at Clemson University April 7 for the appointment of 38 new foreign missionaries. After Parks gave a challenge to the missionaries and issued an invitation to the audience, 199 people made spiritual decisions, including 77 who committed themselves to various types of foreign mission service.

The appointments bring the total foreign mission force to 3,955 missionaries assigned to 125 countries. Outgoing trustee chairman Bill Hancock told the crowd the board had achieved the 125-country figure eight years ahead of the 2000 A.D. target date in the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold

Mission Thrust effort to proclaim the Christian gospel to the whole world.

John Jackson, a pastor from Fairfield, Calif., won the trustee chairmanship by a vote of 48-35 over John P. Greene, a business corporation president from West Palm Beach, Fla. Jackson was nominated by trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas, Texas, and Greene by trustee Hoyt Savage of Las Vegas, Nev. Jackson served previously as first vice chairman and is former state president of California Southern Baptists.

Other officers elected for one-year terms by similar vote margins were Bonnie Westbrook, physician from Beaumont, Texas, first vice chairman; and Mike Goodwin, pastor from Festus, Mo., second vice chairman. Karen Gilbert, a

pastor's wife from Hampton, Va., was reelected without opposition as recording secretary.

Jackson, who will preside over his first trustee meeting in June, said he will serve as an ex-officio member of the search committee, appointed by Hancock and chaired by Gregory, pastor of First Church, Dallas.

Besides Gregory, other members are Leon Hyatt, vice chairman, from Pineville, La.; Bob Oxford of Lakewood, Colo.; Phyllis Randall of Blacksburg, Va.; Karol Wise of Harrisburg, Pa.; John Simms of Salem, Va.; Bruce Romoser of Ellicott, Md.; Terry Williams of Batesville, Miss.; Ted Moody of Warner Robins, Ga.; Reed Lynn of Shawnee, Okla.; Carol Gilbreath of Florence, Ala.; Terry Horton of (See COMMITTEE on page 9)

Peru reportedly swears in Baptist minister Carlos Garcia as president

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (ABP) — Baptist minister Carlos Garcia took the oath of office as Peru's president on April 9 at a clandestine location in Lima, according to international news-wire reports.

Meeting in secret, 135 Peruvian congressmen impeached President Alberto Fujimori and swore in Garcia, the nation's second vice president, as head of state after declaring the president's office vacant, sources told the Reuters news service.

Fujimori had dissolved the Congress on April 5, announced plans to reorganize the judiciary, and called out military troops to patrol the streets of the capital. Though opponents labeled his actions a military coup, Fujimori said he was defending constitutional government against the "terrorist barbarity" of Shining Path Maoist guerrillas.

Garcia had been elected in June 1990 to the second vice presidency in an election that also resulted in four evangelical Protestants being elected to the Senate of the predominantly Catholic nation and 14 to its House of Representatives.

"It was an historic occasion in my country, unique in all its history," Garcia said during an interview in Dallas last November. "It was the first time evangelicals successfully entered into the political process."

"People were discouraged and disappointed in the traditional political parties with their close ties to the Catholic church. The people put their confidence and hope in a new people and a new movement."

Garcia facilitated the distribution of more than \$4 million in medical supplies and other aid donated by Texas Baptists when a cholera epidemic hit western South America, and he said at the time he hoped to

continue using his position as Peru's second vice president to open other doors in his country for evangelical Christians.

Garcia served six years as a pastor in Colombia while studying at the seminary in Cali and 16 years in Lima, including two terms as president of the Peruvian Baptist Convention.

Before the recent unrest, Garcia was heading a nationwide scripture distribution effort as part of Peru's "Year of the Bible" celebration.

He also had founded a non-profit ministry organization, Cooperative Development for Latin America to assist evangelical church leaders in Peru.

Goals of the organization include: developing a nationwide health-care network in Peru with strategically located medical clinics staffed by Christian doctors; distributing food to hungry people; offering training opportunities to church leadership; and helping Peruvians develop economic development strategies.

Garcia, a Baptist pastor and lawyer, sought asylum April 10 in the Argentine embassy to "secure my physical integrity," he said in an Argentine radio interview quoted by United Press International.

Camp is PR director, Baptist General Convention of Texas.



Carlos Garcia

Tennessee BSU team recovers in Laurel

By Lonnie Wilkey

LAUREL, Miss. (BP) — Ten members of a Baptist Student Union team from Maryville College in Tennessee are recovering from injuries sustained in an automobile accident March 22 in Laurel, Miss. — and grateful for the ministry of a Presbyterian church in the city.

The BSU team was returning from a spring mission project in New Orleans, La., when the van they were in left the road during a rainstorm and struck a tree. A "jaws of life" apparatus was used to free the nine students and BSU director Marsha Butler, who was driving the van, from the wreckage. The van was totaled.

Butler said the students suffered broken bones and some internal injuries but "everything is mendable." Butler sustained broken bones in her arm, wrist, and elbow. As of March 27, all of the students had been released from the hospital. One student, Marjorie Dietz, was scheduled to be released March 30 or 31.

Butler said the accident occurred near the hospital in Laurel. A Baptist chaplain arrived at the scene

and prayed with the students.

A passerby saw the name of the college on the van and identified it as a Presbyterian school. She was evidently on her way to church and reported it to leaders at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Laurel. Within 15 minutes, Johnny Patterson, the church's associate pastor, and one of the elders who was a doctor arrived at the emergency room.

Patterson assessed the needs and began a plan of ministry. Church members stayed in the rooms with the injured students and brought various toiletry items and other necessities to the students.

"Church members were unconditional in their Christian love to us," Butler said. "They ministered to us more than we could ever have imagined possible."

Butler said it would be a missions project that would not be forgotten. "We were able to minister in New Orleans and we were ministered to in Laurel," she said.

Wilkey is associate editor, BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR, Tennessee.

James H. Currin, 64, dies of heart attack

NORTHBOROUGH, Mass. (BP) — James H. Currin, executive director/treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New England, died of a heart attack at his home in Shrewsbury, Mass., April 10.

Currin, 64, had been executive of the convention, which includes six New England states, since Dec. 1, 1978.

The funeral was April 14 at 2 p.m. at the Rice Memorial Baptist Church in Northborough.

Significant growth in the BCNE marked Currin's 13 years as executive director. When he arrived in New England 65 churches and missions formed what was then the Baptist General Association of New England. By 1983 the association had grown to 115 congregations and Currin led in the formation of a state convention. There are now 198 churches and missions affiliated with the BCNE.

Currin was named president-elect of Southern Baptist Association of State Convention Executive Directors at its February 1992 meeting.

His writings include a chapter in the Broadman book, *The Birth of Churches*, a booklet entitled "Starting Missions and Churches," and numerous articles in Baptist publications.

Prior to his ministry in New England, Currin, a Tennessee native, was pastor of churches in Illinois, Kentucky, and Indiana. He also served as state Sunday School director and state missions director for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

Currin is survived by his wife Margery; a son, James Stephen of Shrewsbury; a daughter, Connie Minnear of Scottsdale, Ariz.; and six grandchildren.

Inerrancy requirement proposed for Romanian Baptist seminaries

BUCHAREST, Romania (BP) — A proposal to require teachers to accept the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy or be fired has been rejected by the president and a majority of the faculty of the Baptist Theological Institute in Bucharest, Romania.

The proposal, presented by Romanian pastor Josef Ton, asks the Romanian Baptist Union's general council to require professors teaching at both the Bucharest institute and the Baptist Bible Institute in Oradea to agree with the inerrancy statement or be fired.

Ton heads the Oradea school, which is owned and operated by Second Baptist Church in Oradea, where he is pastor. He teaches at both schools and is chairman of the union's committee on education. The Bucharest school is operated by the Romanian Baptist Union, but the Foreign Mission Board owns the property.

Mississippi: Top 10 in baptisms

Top 10 churches in total baptisms for 1991

Church	Pastor	Baptisms
1. Harrisburg, Tupelo	James R. Chatham III	148
2. Temple, Hattiesburg	Gary Berry	133
3. Sharon, Long Beach	Donnie Guy	119
4. Colonial Hills, Southaven	Steve Bennett	91
5. Morrison Heights, Clinton	Ken Alford	90
6. Park Place, Brandon	Bobby Williamson	86
7. First, Jackson	Frank Pollard	78
8. Emmanuel, Greenville	Richard W. Chappell	78
9. Northcrest, Meridian	Malcolm Lewis	77
10. First, Olive Branch	P. J. Scott	75

Top 10 churches in baptisms, 1991, based on ratio, baptisms to resident members

Church	Pastor	Baptisms	Ratio	Res. Members
1. Temple, Grenada	Champ Thomas	9	1.5	14
2. Grace Temple, Gulfport	James Beal	8	1.8	15
3. Waxhaw, Gunnison	Pete Newsom	10	2.3	23
4. Mt. Carmel, Forest	Billy Ray Smith	19	2.3	45
5. Parkway, Morton	Billy Ray Smith	74	2.5	185
6. Faith, Florence	James Sanders	44	2.5	111
7. Dry Creek, Baldwyn	Pastorless	19	2.7	52
8. Wildwood, Southaven	Joseph Haire	9	2.8	26
9. Meadville Street Mission, Summit	Pastorless	4	3	12
10. Palestine, Plantersville	Robert Fowlkes	37	3.2	120



More than 1,200 senior adults registered for the Gulf States Senior Adult Convention held at First Church, Jackson. Singing together are Bessie Parish, left, and Thelma Adams, right, both of First Church, Amory. For those without benefit of color, those jackets are green.

1,200 seniors convene in Jackson

Frank Pollard, First Church, Jackson, pastor, told the group of Jesus' parable of the widow and the unjust judge. At first glance, it may seem the moral is "It pays to pester," said Pollard. "Maybe God's going to listen one of these days and do what I want him to do." Pollard said that is not the meaning. "This parable is not teaching that you're like that widow and God's like that judge." It is exact opposites. He said that we are God's children and he wants to hear from us. "We have a priority in heaven."

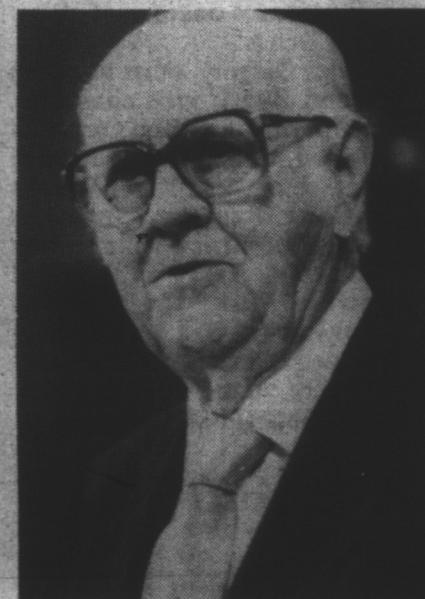
The convention was sponsored by the five Gulf states — Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas. The program was developed by Horace Kerr of the Discipleship Training Department, MBCB. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



CUBAN BAPTIST-MUSICAL GROUP BEGINS U.S. TOUR: — Kairos, a Cuban Baptist musical group, arrived in the U.S. on Friday, April 3, to begin a month-long concert tour. The group, a quintet, all of whom are members of the Baptist church in Matanzas, Cuba, are being sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America as part of a larger project focusing attention on U.S.-Cuban relations. "Cuba is officially designated as an 'enemy' of the U.S.," said Ken Sehested, executive director of the BPFNA, "but Jesus explicitly instructed us to love our enemies. We are sponsoring this tour, along with other activities, as a way of building bridges between the citizens of Cuba and the United States. We are starting in our own house by building bridges between Baptists in the two countries."

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Gary Berry	133
Donnie Guy	119
Steve Bennett	91
Ken Alford	90
Bobby Williamson	86
Frank Pollard	78
Richard W. Chappell	78
Malcolm Lewis	77
P. J. Scott	75

Pastor	Baptisms	Ratio	Res. Members
Champ Thomas	9	1.5	14
James Beal	8	1.8	15
Pete Newsom	10	2.3	23
Billy Ray Smith	19	2.3	45
Billy Ray Smith	74	2.5	185
James Sanders	44	2.5	111
Pastorless	19	2.7	52
Joseph Haire	9	2.8	26
Pastorless	4	3	12
Robert Fowlkes	37	3.2	120



Frank Stagg of Bay St. Louis, professor emeritus of Southern Seminary. Stagg spoke on how to study the Bible by preparing the right time; the right attitude; and a good commentary. He went through Mark's Gospel pointing out the highlights in view of history of that time.

Jay Strack and evangelism

By Guy Henderson

Evangelism has been the hallmark of Baptists since the beginning. Today we are still seeking to be evangelistic in our ministry to the world. Jay Strack is assuredly one of the gifted evangelists we have among us today. Recently he was in a revival crusade with the Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, where Ken Alford is pastor. The attendance quickly outgrew the worship center and the crusade continued at the Mississippi College Coliseum. Hundreds of young people attended the Tuesday evening youth night, 57 made professions of faith, and many made rededications of their lives to follow Christ. In an interview with the *Baptist Record*, Strack expressed his view about present day evangelism:

Is there a place for revivalism in our churches today?

There is a future for the right type of revival in any age. We should not be intimidated by the 1900s, for neither the gates of hell nor the '90s can prevail against the church. Methods change, principles remain. The principle of revival is in dozens



Mississippi College Baptist Nursing Fellowship officers for 1991-1992 are front row, left to right: Denise Windom, president; Kaye Wilson, faculty sponsor; Monica Maxwell, WMU liaison; Judy McDaniel, fellowship and membership chairman. Back row, from left are Lara Williams, prayer coordinator; Lizlee Chalk, program chairman; Sherrie Long, heritage chairman. Not pictured are Tina Fendley, vice president; Amanda Harvey, secretary/treasurer; and Joan Meeks, service chairman.

MC BNF is first in nation

November 6 marked the beginning of the Mississippi College Chapter of Baptist Nursing Fellowship. This is the first college chapter of BNF in the state, and nation. The chapter was organized by a small group of junior nursing students, who felt the need for additional spiritual support, because nursing school can be trying and stressful at times. This organization has grown from that small group of junior nursing students to encompass sophomores, seniors, and faculty, including Dean Lisa Eichelberger.

Once a month the group meets to have a time of devotion, singing, plan-

ning of mission projects and prayer for missionaries; specifically nurses who serve all over the world.

Mission projects completed within the past year include providing children's vitamins to Delores Young, RN in the Rio Grande region, and used eyeglasses to Jenny Hester in Colombia. Future plans include spending an afternoon rolling bandages to send to Martha Haygood in Nigeria, as well as outreach to those in need in the local community.

Kaye Wilson, assistant professor of nursing at Mississippi College, serves as the chapter's faculty sponsor.

State Baptists give over \$5 million in first quarter

Mississippi Baptists gave \$5,370,364 through the Cooperative Program in the first quarter of 1992, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

This amount is \$64,444 more than that given by the 2,000 participating churches in the first quarter of 1991.

March gifts this year were \$1,446,607, just surpassing the \$1,444,535 given in March of 1991.

If the 1992 budget of \$21,588,435 were divided into 12 equal parts, gifts thus

far this year would be \$26,745 less than that needed to reach the budget goal. This is one half of one percent under budget.

1911 — The Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson was accepted as a gift from Drs. Hunter and Shands.

1899 — The first state wide B.Y.P.U. Convention was held in Canton with Arthur Flake as president and Landrum Leavell as secretary.

Sociology, philosophy, and other subjects have been on their mind all week; they do not come to church to hear more of it. Preach the Word.

There must be strong action by the pastor. In homes, visitation, church activities, he must be positive and reflect a positive attitude. He needs to be soul-conscious and lead the outreach ministry. Set worthwhile goals and go after them.

What "tools" of evangelism should be offered to Russia, the eastern European nations, and to other mission fields around the world?

The churches visited in Russia and Romania need a strong emphasis on youth. The average age of some churches there would be 65. Services are lengthy and not very appealing to young people. The singing group Truth went with me; the young people will be drawn by gospel music. We had 8,000 to 10,000 in Romania and two-thirds would be young people. And of course, there, as in every place, we need to do more personal soul winning.

What "tools" of evangelism should be offered to Russia, the eastern European nations, and to other mission fields around the world?

Jones receives "Friend of the Family" Award

Paul Griffin Jones II, executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission, has been given the "Friend of the Family" Award by the Mississippi Home Economics Association.

Faye Smith of Quitman, secretary of the MSHEA, who nominated Jones, said this was the first year the organization has made such an award. "He's been able to bring a vision of morality into public schools," she said, adding, "He's been able to teach that morals come from God."

Jones has been a president of the Mississippi Council on Family Relations. Other civic responsibilities include service on the Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force for the Governor's Commission on Children/Youth, and on the Department of Health's AIDS Literature Review Task Force and as a member of Partners for Improved Nutrition and Health. Also, he has served as PTS president of Clinton High School.

Jones came to Mississippi in 1981 from East Texas State University where he was chair of the Department of Biblical Studies, professor of Bible, and Baptist Student Union director.

1925 — The first Baptist Student Union was organized on a campus of a state institution of higher learning — the first one being organized at Mississippi State College for Women.



Providence Church meets now at this house.

Meridian church will build

Kenneth McDowell is new pastor of Providence Church, Meridian. The church is sponsored by Lauderdale

Association and was founded by Willie L. Scott, pastor of Providence Community Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga.

Scott made his first contact with the black community in Meridian in February of 1991. He preached at a revival, conducted bi-weekly Bible

classes, and discipled Providence church leader groups in Meridian on bi-weekly visits in 1991.

The church meets at 320 40th Ave., Meridian, and now conducts regular weekly Bible study and worship services with McDowell as pastor. The church has 40 members and plans to purchase property and construct a new church building.

McDowell and his wife Sandra have two grown children. He is an Air Force veteran and a graduate of Valdosta State College. He will enroll at New Orleans Seminary in September.



McDowell

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

"Easter is God's laughter"

Lanterns and candles lighted Columbus' Friendship Cemetery last week while night tourists heard history students tell "tales from the crypt" about personalities of the past.

One country churchyard in Alabama contains the graves of many of those I have loved best. I don't need a tour guide to tell me their stories.

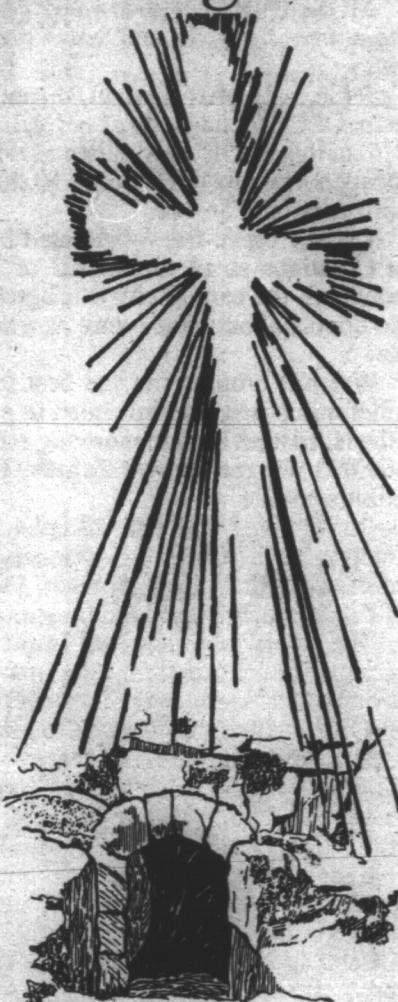
There is the grave of my daddy. Beyond the stone bearing his name are the graves of Grandma and Grandpa Washburn. A little way down the hill is the tiny grave of the baby brother I never got a chance to know. Here to my left, between the obelia bushes, are the graves of Grandma and Grandpa Allen. Somewhere down there was buried one of my favorite Sunday School teachers.

"Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still!" Tennyson, mourning the death of his friend, said it well.

Gravestones have littered the world since the day Eve and Adam tasted the forbidden, and opened the door to suffering and death.

"Ring around the roses, pocket full of posies, guinea, guinea all squat." I played that game in grammar school. What child hasn't? But I didn't know until last week the story of its origin. Centuries ago, during the days of the black plague in Europe, children sang that verse, except they closed it with this line — "husha, husha, we all fall down." Some thought the plague was caused by polluted air, and that the fragrance of fresh flowers would help to cleanse the air. So doctors stuffed flowers into their pockets and carried them to the sick and dying. Yet thousands continued to "fall down." Thus the song of the children.

Easter is about death. But that's not all! Easter is about life. Laurie Barber in *The Canadian Baptist* said,



"Easter is God's laughter." And she quotes Victor Hugo, author of *Les Misérables*: "When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others, 'I have finished my work.' But I cannot say I have finished my life . . . My tomb is not a blind alley. It is a thoroughfare. It closes in the twilight to open in the dawn."

A miracle?

Ralph Bethea, former missionary to Kenya, has in recent months been distributing Bibles in Russia. The following story was told in the *Messenger* of Galveston (Texas) Baptist Association:

When Ralph stopped to visit in a Russian home, the woman of the house asked, "Have you come to join my husband in his devotion?" So he did. The elderly man spoke of his disillusionment with communism and of his return to the biblical teachings of his mother. When he said he didn't have a Bible, Ralph gave him one. The old man clutched it on his chest and called his neighbors and read from it to them for four hours.

Though Ralph's supply of Bibles had almost run out, he gave the old man the few that he had with him.

A former KGB agent who had accepted the Lord came to Ralph and said, "I know where there are 40,000 Bibles."

"Where?"

"In a warehouse."

They had been confiscated years

before and ordered burned, but — in the providence of God — they had been stored instead. Now Ralph offered to buy them, but the man said he could not sell them. "How about a public auction?" Ralph asked.

"What's an auction?"

An auction was explained. The man agreed to have one, but who would bid?

Ralph gathered people from what had been the underground church in the area, and explained what they planned to do. They agreed. When the bidding got to \$1,000, Ralph was the last "bidder." He got 40,000 Bibles for \$1,000.

As they were gathering up the Bibles, Ralph opened one box and took out a Bible which contained some writing. He handed it to the elderly man with whom he had "had devotions." To the man's amazement, it was his mother's Bible which had been confiscated 30 years before.

"A miracle?" asks the *Messenger*'s writer. You decide.

Our readers

A few months ago, Anne Rominger of Fort Rucker, Alabama, wrote and asked if anyone could provide a cross-stitch pattern for the SBC emblem. I reprinted her letter in this column, and she has received the pattern, thanks to one of our readers. Here is her second letter:

Dear Mrs. McWilliams:

A few months ago I wrote to you when I was looking for a cross-stitch pattern of the SBC emblem. Mrs. Bee

Stauter from Moss Point wrote me the sweetest letter and sent me the pattern I was looking for. She designed the graph herself.

I appreciate your help. I haven't started the piece yet (I'm currently working on one about Mississippi!), but plan to do it soon.

Ann Rominger
58 Endi Avenue
Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362



Doctors hear of Luke Society ministries

Peter Boelens of Vicksburg, center, director of the Luke Society which oversees physicians' ministries in 10 countries, was key speaker at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's Physicians' Fellowship on March 4. Pictured with Boelens are Danny Rutland, left, MBMC development officer, and Sam Denney, MBMC pediatrician. MBMC's Physicians' Fellowship is an outreach ministry that MBMC organized for physicians.

Baptists give aid, hope in Croatian war zones

By Mike Creswell

MOSCENICA, Croatia (BP) — "The enemy is right over there in those trees," said Daniel Jekic, pointing to a stand of trees about a mile away.

Jekic, a Baptist layman, meant the Yugoslavian army, camped just across the Croatia-Serbia border.

Croatia, one of six regions in what was once Yugoslavia, declared its independence in 1991. Some 10,000 people have died in the ensuing war with dominant Serbia.

A shaky cease-fire — violated by frequent skirmishes — barely holds as Croatians await the arrival of 14,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops. In the capital city of Zagreb, new Croatian flags fly everywhere. No doubts about their future as a new nation are evident among the people.

War has brought out the best in Baptists here. They have organized relief ministries, pushed ahead in evangelism, and distributed Bibles and other Christian literature among refugees. Government sources say about 300,000 refugees crowd Zagreb, swelling its population to well over 1 million people.

Daniel Jekic and other Baptist laymen were at the front lines not as soldiers but as Christian witnesses. As rain began to fall they passed out copies of a Billy Graham book, *Peace With God*, to soldiers and spoke of Christian faith amid the horrors of war.

The interdenominational ministry group, Getsemani Mission, were originally intended to use the arts to communicate the gospel. In recent months Getsemani workers have won military approval to minister to refugees right at the edges of the war zone.

Back in Zagreb, the one Baptist church in the city is filled to capacity for Sunday services as refugees come to worship and pick up medicine, food, or clothing. Pastor Josip Mikulic says the church's ministry program, "My Neighbor," has helped more than 1,000 families.

Baptists are reconciled to the breakup of their Yugoslavian national Baptist union, which had 117 churches and missions. Forty-three churches and missions with about 1,000 members are in Croatia.

Baptists in Croatia cannot call or even send letters to fellow Baptists across the war zone. "It's not possible to talk about a Yugoslavian union now," Mikulic said, although he suggested joint work could continue on an unofficial basis.

"The church must become supranational rather than be related to a nationality," one Baptist leader said. "That's one important contribution we have to make."

A Baptist publishing house in Zagreb will play a key role in meeting postwar needs. Even Catholic churches and schools now use Baptist literature. One Catholic priest helps distribute it and he uses it to prepare his radio messages.

Southern Baptist missionary Nela Williams has been working with the Croatian government during recent months to win government approval of Baptist Sunday School teaching. Now, Baptist young people can get school credit for Sunday School studies just as Catholic students do, if churches follow proper registration procedures.

That's a new direction in a heavily Catholic land where Baptists often get overlooked — and where they have been "more afraid of the Catholics than the communists," according to one Baptist leader.

Baptists also may minister in hospitals and prisons but few workers are available. "The doors are open but we're too small for so many opportunities," Mikulic said.

He and other church leaders — Protestant and Catholic — say the wounds of the soul caused by the war will take years of ministry to heal.

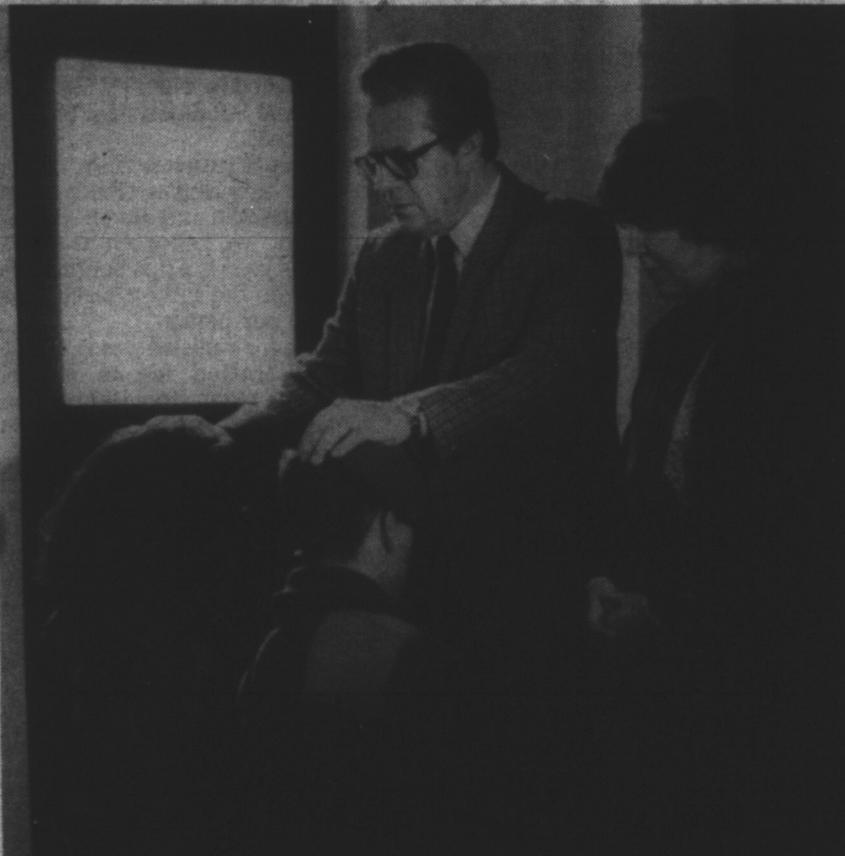
Creswell is Baptist Press correspondent for Europe.



FOOD FOR REFUGEES — Ivana Marinovic, Teofil Mikulic, and Blajenka Marinovic (from left to right) weigh flour for distribution to war refugees in Croatia, which has been locked in conflict with neighboring Serbia. The refugee relief is a ministry of Getsemani Mission, an interdenominational aid agency supported by Baptists in the area. Their small warehouse/office is next to Betel Baptist Church in Sisak. (BP photo by Mike Creswell).



GOSPELS, NOT GUNS — Baptist layman Daniel Jekic distributes Christian literature to Croatian soldiers in front of a bombed-out Catholic church in the town of Moscenica. The town is about a mile from the front lines of Croatia's war with Serbia — as close as the military will let any civilian go. Heavy shelling has caused Moscenica's residents to abandon it; only the military is there now. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)



BATTLEFIELD WEDDING — Southern Baptist missionary Nela Williams (right) translates Croatian for Serbian Baptist pastor David Ogrizovic at Betel Baptist Church in Sisak, Croatia, where Ogrizovic was asked to conduct the wedding of two soldiers. Ogrizovic himself is a refugee of the war that has torn Yugoslavia apart. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Bush proclaims May 7 Day of Prayer

WASHINGTON (ABP) — President George Bush has proclaimed May 7, 1992, as a National Day of Prayer, urging all Americans to pray in thanksgiving and for God's continued blessing.

In his presidential proclamation, Bush wrote, "As we seek to chart a

proper course in a world that is changing by the hour, our observance of a National Day of Prayer reminds us that we can always place our trust in the steady, unfailing light that is the love of God."

N. Carolina squares off concerning "gay union"

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP) — Members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's executive committee voted 9-8 against joining six officers of the convention and its general board in recommending the rejection of funds "from any church which knowingly takes, or has taken, any official action which manifests public approval, promotion or blessing of homosexuality."

The April 7 vote followed nearly two hours of discussion by the committee in a regular meeting at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem.

The discussion and the recommendation drafted by convention officers came in the wake of decisions by Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh and Binkley Memorial Church in Chapel Hill regarding homosexuals in their congregations. Pullen voted March 1 to bless the "union" of two male homosexuals and Binkley voted April 5 to license a student at Duke Divinity School to the ministry. The marriage-like union service for two homosexual men was held March 15 at Pullen.

Five of the eight votes cast during the executive committee meeting in favor of the motion were by the officers who drafted the recommendation.

According to R.G. Puckett, editor of the convention's newsjournal, the *Biblical Recorder*, "The central issue in the discussions and decisions is not homosexuality and the teachings of Scripture about it but rather church autonomy. Those opposing the recommendation of the officers felt it was setting a dangerous precedent, 'creating a slippery slope' in which other issues later could continue the erosion of local church autonomy which has long been considered a cherished Baptist practice."

Letters, telephone calls, and resolutions about the issue have inundated the officers, the administrative offices at the Baptist Building in Cary, N.C., and the *Biblical Recorder*, Puckett reported.

The *Recorder* has received only one letter which in any way sought to defend or plead for toleration of homosexual conduct and lifestyles, Puckett said. The lines of debate are clearly drawn between which shall take precedence, local church autonomy or the teachings of Scripture on homosexual conduct, he said.

A National Day of Prayer has been an annual tradition since April 17, 1952, when Congress approved a joint resolution calling for the designation of a specific day of prayer. The first Thursday in May each year has been set aside for that purpose.

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 16, 1992

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

by June Nolen,
Mantee Baptist Church

As a result of my recent trip to Africa with Partnership Evangelism, I received a most precious gift from Zimbabwe this week. (In January I was privileged to be a part of the Mississippi group that went to Zimbabwe.) The gift was in the form of a letter from Pastor Simon and Ami Jena of Chitungwiza Baptist Church, which is located on the outskirts of the Capital City of Harare. Pastor Simon Jena, on behalf of the church and his family, sent greetings and expressed thanks for our group coming and sharing the love of Jesus Christ thru preaching, teaching and Bible study. In his letter he shared the Bible verses 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 where the Apostle Paul says "We give thanks to God always for you, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Tears flowed down my face as I read again and again this beautiful scripture, and I bowed my head and thanked God for the opportunity of meeting these brothers and sisters in Christ that live over 9000 miles from my home in Mississippi. Their love of the Lord was so obvious as I observed them and participated in their worship service and their love included me as a member of God's family thru Jesus Christ. Their sweet spirit and kindness exhibited toward me and other team members told me that they truly knew the Lord and walked daily with Him.

Pastor Jena's burden for the lost people of his country humbled me as I was reminded of the many lost people in my beloved America. His commitment to Soul-Winning made each of us resolve to be better Soul-Winners when we returned home. How exciting it was to also be reminded that we worship a God that is not limited by miles or culture or color, a God that knows no boundaries.

The letter from Chitungwiza Baptist Church will always be among my most treasured possessions, and I will re-read it many times, I am sure, as I think back so often of the wonderful experiences I had with my brothers and sisters in Christ in Zimbabwe.

This is the second in a series of testimonials from people who have traveled to Zimbabwe to participate in the Partnership project Mississippi Baptists have begun with that African country. Other testimonials are scheduled to follow.

NOTE: There are two or three vacancies for witnesses on an evangelistic team for May 11-18. For details, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator, at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Those interested should inquire with Hardy.

ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICER INTERPRETATION MEETING

Alta Woods Baptist Church
Jackson, MS

May 12, 1992
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This conference is for Associational officers who will serve during 1992-1993.

Separate conferences will be provided for the following:

- Director of Missions
- Associational Sunday School Director
- Associational Discipleship Training Director
- Associational Church Music Director
- Associational Brotherhood Director
- Associational Missions Development Director
- Associational Stewardship Director
- Associational Evangelism Director



- Associational Pastoral Ministries Director
- Associational Family Ministries Director
- Associational Christian Action Chairman
- Associational Media Library Director
- Associational WMU Director
- Associational Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Coordinator

EQUIPPED TO SERVE

- Become acquainted with the suggested program for churches. Be aware of associational programs to assist your churches.
- Become equipped to lead program council planning sessions.
- Become equipped to lead in interpreting suggested church programs to your church program leaders.



Christian Performing Arts Festival

Imagine learning a new magic trick. Remember hearing a wonderful story. Clowns are fun and minister to people's needs. Puppets are sources of information and help us to learn. All of these media of ministry were a part of the Christian Performing Arts Festival held February 7-8 at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton. Two hundred fifty-one people were trained for ministry in various aspects of puppetry, clowning, and drama. Forty-two churches sent young people and adults to provide drama sketches, learn new skills, worship, and enjoy the fellowship. Classes included creative topics such as Mime, Storytelling, Beginning a Drama, Ministry Fundamentals of Directing, Ministry and Humor, and Magic. Church researchers tell us that more churches wish to involve their church members in creative worship and creative mission activities. The Christian Performing Arts Festival provides a platform for creative ministries. Next year the event will be held March 5-6 at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson. Contact Robin Nichols for detailed information.



MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM

- Pray for a project of the Woman's Department of the BWA, in Russia. Mrs. Catherine Allen, president of the Woman's Dept. of the BWA and Dr. Dorothy Sample, president of the North American Union, went to Russia in March to help set up an office for women's work in Russia.
- Pray that the goal of 116 missionaries for the countries of the former Soviet Union will be reached this year. Pray that the great need in their countries will not cause us to forget the tremendous needs for personnel in China.
- Pray for volunteers from more than a dozen states, who will cooperate in PROJECT BROTHERHOOD, to coordinate shipment and distribution of food and medicine to the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States of the former Soviet Union) Denny and Jerry Quinn, who were joined by Russell Griffin on March 24, serve as on-site coordinators in Moscow until June 30. Thirty-five containers were expected to arrive in St.

Petersburg on April 10, and the first volunteers were expected to arrive April 12. This project is being sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, in cooperation with the state Brotherhood organizations and other Baptist denominations.

- Pray for Merwyn and Linda Borders of the Green Mountain Association of Vermont. They work with 23 churches and these churches are growing faster than pastors can be found for them.
- Pray for Lee Martin, director of church and community ministries for Kaw Valley Baptist Association, Topeka, Kans. Pray for a van or small truck for the association. It will be used to minister to low-income areas, race track ministries, resort work, disaster relief and a variety of other ministries.
- Pray for Larry Miquez, who works in church and community missions in New Orleans, La. His community center is in the Irish Channel area of downtown New Orleans.
- Pray for the Seaman's Center, located in the heart of the port of Gulfport. There 227 large ships dock annually and unload their cargoes onto 10,000 trucks. It is estimated that more than 20,000 seamen, truckers and port-related personnel will come in contact with the gospel every year because of the witness of the Center.

- Pray for a project that is being undertaken by Christian people in Philadelphia, Miss., to aid people in Romania, especially an orphanage in the town of Jugo. One of the problems they face is the cost of shipping goods overseas.
- Pray for the Mississippi River ministry that is in the planning stages. Nearly a million Southern Baptists live in the 127 counties in seven state conventions along the river. "The floor is open" for the proposal of possible ministries, in advance of the convocation of this ministry, Aug. 7-8, 1992.

Mississippi PrayerLine
969-PRAY

Call day or night to receive prayer message.
Leave requests after the beep.



"Mississippi Baptists who are involved in broadcasting on radio, television or cable, and those who are interested in getting started in these areas are invited to join us in the **Sixth Annual Mississippi Baptists In Broadcasting Workshop on May 15-16, 1992**, at Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson."

— Farrell Blankenship, director, Department of Broadcast Services

AWARDS BANQUET SPEAKER

Jack Johnson — President, Radio & Television Commission, SBC

Dr. Johnson directs the ministry of Southern Baptists in electronic media throughout the United States.



PRODUCING A WORSHIP SERVICE II

Helping camera people, directors, producers, and those who lead the worship service to look at every aspect of producing the worship service from scripting, working as a team, broadcast sound and other details.

Led by Ron Harris — Program director of KCBI Radio and former Minister of Media for Travis Avenue BC, Ft. Worth, Tex.



CREATIVE TV PRODUCTION--BEYOND THE SANCTUARY II

Shooting the one-camera production including preproduction planning, location shooting, lighting, audio, postproduction, editing in the camera, and more.

Led by Bernie Hargis — Television producer for the Radio and TV Commission, SBC and the ACTS Network, Ft. Worth, Tex.



Cost is \$25 per person which includes all conference materials and meals. For churches bringing five or more persons, cost is \$20 per person. Limited seating available, send registration fee early. Advanced registration must be made. Registration deadline May 6, 1992. Cancellation policy: Full refund prior to **May 1, 1992**. No refund after that date.

Sponsored by:
BROADCAST SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Farrell Blankenship, Director
Judy Shelton, Secretary

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
Dr. Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

HOUSE TORS

Adult/Youth GROWTH STARTS WORKSHOPS

Adult/Youth Growth Starts Workshop is designed to lead Adult and Youth Sunday School workers and members to become involved and trained to start new units in order to reach the lost and unchurched persons in their communities. The Workshop begins with an awareness of these possibilities, moves into practical outreach training, and finally into ways of reaching people. Key leaders of the church-the pastor, Sunday School director, staff members-should be made aware of these meetings. The workshop will be designed to have the adult and youth workers together.

This is a church event. We urge you to begin making plans and preparations for the workshop. We can't tell you how important it is for the churches to be represented for this workshop. Here you will discover sound, fundamental principles on growing your Sunday School.

ADULT/YOUTH WORKSHOPS April 27-30, 1992

April 27, First Baptist Church, Greenville,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 27, First Baptist Church, Horn Lake,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 28, Briarwood Drive Baptist Church, Jackson,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 28, East Corinth Baptist Church, Corinth,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 29, First Baptist Church, McComb,
9:30 a.m. - Noon

April 29, First Baptist Church, Columbus,
9:30 a.m. - Noon

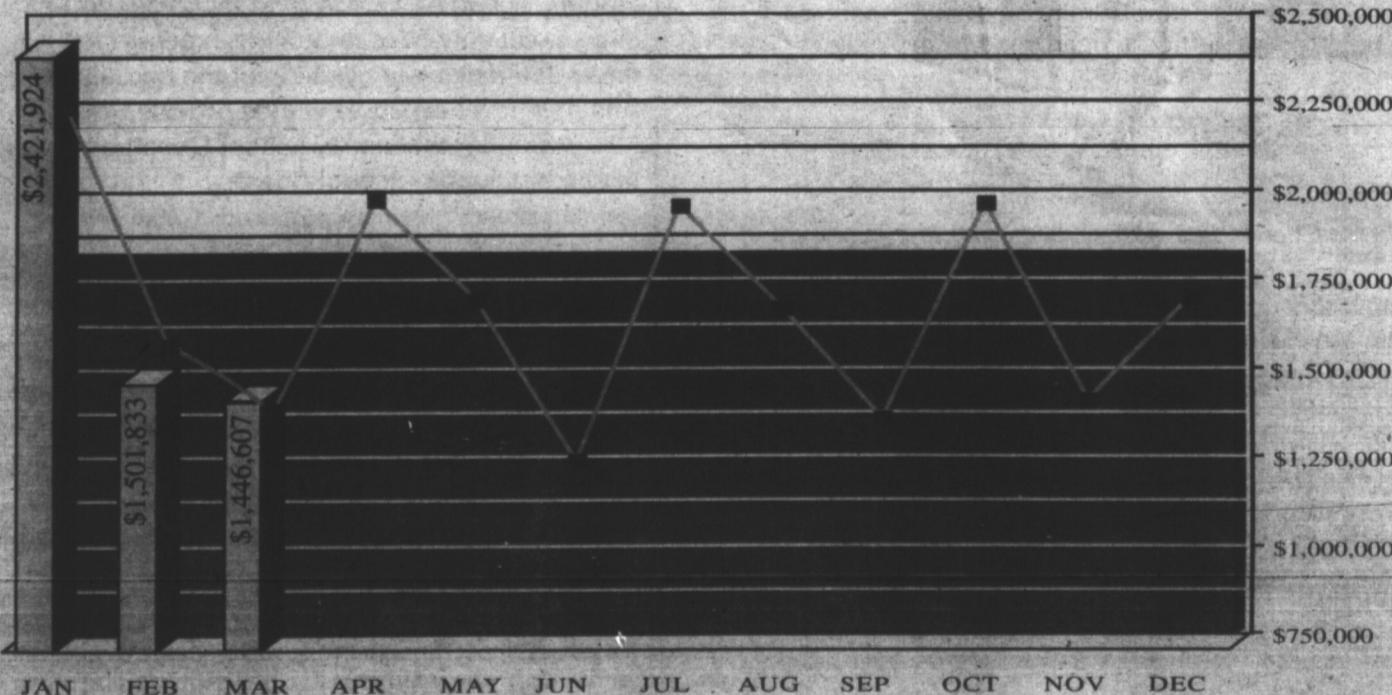
April 30, First Baptist Church, Wiggins,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 30, 38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg,
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CURRENT GIFTS 1992

■ Receipts
■ Needs
— 1991



Camping at Central Hills

Registration for Central Hills Summer Camp 1992 Sessions is open as of April 1, 1992. Royal Ambassador Boys and High School Baptist Young Men (grades 4-12) may register for the R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp sessions (Monday - Friday) - Maximum of 170 per session. Boys (grades 1-3) and their dads may register for the Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions (Friday - Saturday) - Maximum of 100 per session. Active participation in an R.A. or H.S.B.Y.M. unit is not required for a fellow to register for a camp session. Each camper (boy, lad & dad) must complete an individual registration form.

RESIDENT CAMP SESSIONS FOR R. A. & H.S.B.Y.M.

June 22-26	July 13-17
June 29-July 3	July 20-24
	July 27-31

LAD-DAD WEEKEND CAMP SESSIONS

June 19-20	June 26-27	July 17-18
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New registration forms have been printed for the 1992 camp sessions. Each camper (lad and dad) will complete a separate individual form. Included in the form is all the information parents need from Central Hills. Parents will provide all the information Central Hills needs for the camper. The form requests registration information, health information and personal information. Each parent/camper will receive a confirmation receipt from Central Hills.

Each camper will need to list his choice of "bunk mate" on the registration form.

The Camp Fee (\$86.00 per person payable with registration form) includes all the necessary fees for the Resident Camp session. It provides lodging, "first call" insurance, snacks, and crafts (1 or 2 projects). A camper may bring additional money for more craft projects. Souvenirs and additional snacks may be purchased on Friday after lunch. This procedure will provide full information for our staff on each camper. It will simplify the bookkeeping procedures and speed the registration process each Monday morning.

The Camp Fee (\$22.00 per person payable with registration form) for Lad-Dad Weekend Camp sessions provides for lodging and meals and "first call" insurance. Dads will need to be prepared with money for the Snack/Souvenir Shop.

The early weeks of the summer provide the advantage of good climate and the fresh enthusiasm of the staffers. Churches can work together by car/van/bus pooling to provide transportation for the campers. Associations can help by promoting attendance for a given week where transportation can be planned for several churches.

Several Volunteer Counselors are needed for each R.A./H.S.B.Y.M. Resident Camp session. A volunteer can enlist a group of boys from his church or community and help with transportation for that group. (Preferably the volunteer would work with a group of boys other than his own.)

Registration forms are available from:

1. Central Hills Baptist Retreat (601)289-9730
P. O. Box 723
Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723
2. Your church office
3. Your association office
4. Brotherhood Department (601)968-3800
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYER CONFERENCE

BROADMOOR
BAPTIST CHURCH
Jackson, MS

May 19, 1992

*Calling all
Concerned
Leaders...*

...to a time of commitment to intercessory prayer and a time to obtain aid in developing your church's ongoing prayer ministry.

AGENDA

Morning Session

8:45	Registration
9:15	A Call to Prayer Charles and Indy Whitten
9:25	Worship Time Ron and Pat Owens
9:40	Into the Holiness of God Bill Causey
10:10	A Prayer Ministry that Works Juanita Allison
10:35	Music Ron and Pat Owens
10:45	"Going a Stone's Throw Farther" Roy Edgemon
11:15	Let Us Pray Paul Harrell
11:45	Adjourn for Lunch



BILL CAUSEY



JUANITA ALLISON



RON AND PAT OWENS



ROY EDGE MON

Afternoon Session

1:30	Simultaneous Conferences (with group prayer time)
A.	<i>Mobilizing for a Workable Prayer Ministry</i> Juanita Allison
B.	<i>Mobilizing for a Workable Prayer Ministry</i> Alice Miller
C.	<i>Mobilizing for a Workable Prayer Ministry</i> Marion Ivy
D.	<i>Mobilizing for a Workable Prayer Ministry</i> Pat Turner
2:30	Reassemble in the Auditorium
	Praying for Spiritual Awakening Ron and Pat Owens
2:45	"The Results of Living in a Spirit of Prayer" Roy Edgemon
3:15	Adjourn

PROGRAM PERSONNEL:

Juanita Allison, Director of Prayer Ministry, Immanuel Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.

Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer, MBCB

Roy Edgemon, Director, Discipleship Training Department, BSSB

Paul Harrell, Director of Brotherhood Department and Chairman of Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Committee, MBCB

Marion Ivy, Director of Prayer Ministry, First Baptist Church, Grenada

Alice May Miller, Director of Prayer Ministry, First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Ron and Pat Owens, Christian ministry music team, Atlanta

Pat Turner, Director of Prayer Ministry, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton

Charles and Indy Whitten, Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Coordinators, MBCB

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL: Julius C. Thompson, Director, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, 968-3800 extension 3908

SUMMER YOUTH LEADER'S CLINIC
April 24-25, 1992
Mississippi College

Featuring:
Hal Kitchens
Harvey Ellis
Jimmy Stewart

You'll learn:

- How to plan a summer youth calendar
- How to work with people
- How to involve parents
- How to give "First Aid" Counseling
- How to balance fun and learning

Cost \$25.00 Mail reservation to:

Summer Youth Leader's Clinic
Mississippi College
Box 4185
Clinton, MS 39058



The **GREAT COMMISSION BreakThrough** Project is an opportunity for churches to experience BreakThrough in attendance, prayer, Bible study, discipleship, and many other ministry areas.



By participating in the **GREAT COMMISSION BreakThrough** Project, a church will be assigned a trained consultant for a period of six to nine months. A **GREAT COMMISSION BreakThrough** church will only have to provide expenses for meals and lodging (if needed) for the consultant. All other travel expenses will be provided by the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department and the Baptist Sunday School Board.



To find out more on how to become a **GREAT COMMISSION BreakThrough** church, call the Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department (968-3800) or write: Randy Tompkins • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

(Gulf Coast churches can participate in the **GREAT COMMISSION BreakThrough** Project through the *Good News for the Gulf Coast* Event.)

HOUSE TOPS



Letters to the editor



Masonry's ties to Mormonism

Editor:

It is ironic that Mormonism which is rejected by Baptists (and rightly so) borrowed from Freemasonry, which is not. Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism was himself a Mason.

The July 1990 issue of *Salt Lake City Messenger*, published by former Mormons Jerald and Sandra Tanner, quotes Mormon historian Dr. Reid Durham: "I am convinced that in the study of Masonry lies a pivotal key to further understanding Joseph Smith and the church (of Latter-Day Saints). I believe that there are few significant developments in the church that occurred after March 15, 1842 (date Smith became third degree Mason) which did not have some Masonic interdependence." The Mormon ceremony "the endowment" was described as being so similar to Masonry that one writer described it as Celestial Masonry.

The same publication reports that Dr. Walter Martin of Christian Research Institute concluded after being asked to look into the matter regarding the influence of witchcraft and satanism on the Mormon Temple ceremony: "There are similarities and parallels among Mormonism and some forms of modern witchcraft and satanism. However, what similarities there are stem not from Mormonism borrowing directly from witchcraft and satanism but the commonality that all three have in being heavily influenced by Freemasonry..."

I am enrolled in Southwestern's satellite class, "Satanism, The Occult, and New Age Movement" taught by Dr. John Newport. To a student's question about Freemasonry he replied, "Masonry in its origin did have occult or magic relationships. What goes on in its meetings I don't know."

Louise Shannon
Yazoo City

Homosexuality is condemned

Editor:

I have never written a letter to the editor of a state paper, but a recent development in our Convention is forcing me to write and express my concern. I really don't know the correct word to use to describe the feeling in my heart as I read about the church in North Carolina that voted to "bless" the union of homosexuals. Hurt, anguish, anger, grief, sickened at my stomach describes some of the emotions that I experienced. If I experienced such grief, I wonder what this does to the heart of God.

This stand by this church to endorse a homosexual relationship has nothing to do with being conservative or liberal. It has everything to do with being unequivocally wrong. It is wrong because homosexuality is strongly condemned in Scripture. The church has no vote in what God clearly

states is sin. Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Judges 19; and Romans 1:26-27 are just a few scriptures where homosexuality is condemned.

Neither does this stand have anything to do with soul liberty or church autonomy in reference to this church being allowed to be called a Southern Baptist church. If this church does not repent of this horrible sin, the only answer to preserve the testimony of our Convention is to remove this church from the Convention. If this church is allowed to stay in our Convention, those who are homosexuals could be elected as messengers to vote on issues that would affect the church that I pastor. God forbid!

I am a devoted Southern Baptist. I was saved and called to preach in a Southern Baptist church and educated in Southern Baptist schools. However, in all good conscience I could not pastor a church in a denomination that allowed such sin to be openly flaunted. This would force me to leave my beloved Convention.

Craig Conner
Gulfport

Jobs at any cost?

Editor:

In our ongoing battle against dockside gambling in Mississippi, one major issue continues to surface. That issue is jobs. "How can you be against jobs?" they ask. The public has been crying out for jobs at any cost, but I believe there are some jobs which are not worth the price society will be required to pay.

For the record, I am opposed to any new jobs created by any industry that feeds on human degradation, oppression of the poor and uneducated, family division, social deterioration, and false economic hope. Yes, I am opposed to any jobs created by gambling, prostitution, alcohol, and drugs. These industries have a proven record of draining the very life out of individuals and communities, and are the first ones to leave town without paying their bills. As we have already experienced in Mississippi, depending on this type of industry to build a city or state is laying a very unstable foundation which can be washed away with the first high tide.

When are we going to admit that there are no get-rich-quick schemes that do not hurt some aspect of society, and that the only way to give a city or a state economic strength, stability, and growth is through an honest day's work and pay, provided by industries that provide goods and services that are useful to all?

Dale Little
director of missions
Adams-Union Baptist
Association

Nettleton's 150th

Editor:

Nettleton's First Church is celebrating its 150th year as a church

this year, 1842-1992. We began celebrating Sunday, Mar. 8, with a time of refreshments and fellowship before Sunday School. We dressed in old-fashioned clothes and a couple rode to church on horses.

Each second Sunday through Aug. 9, we will be dressing in old-fashioned clothes, and a skit will be presented depicting some event in the history of the church.

Aug. 7-9 will climax this celebration. The events for these dates are: Aug. 7, 7 p.m., former pastors' reception; Aug. 8, 7 p.m., former ministers of music recognized, and hamburger supper; Aug. 9, morning worship, 11 a.m., message from former pastor L. R. Magers, and pot-luck lunch.

All former members, former pastors, and music directors are urged to join with us in August for this celebration.

George Johnston, pastor
Nettleton

"Peddle poison elsewhere"

Editor:

Ordinarily, it takes two months for our state Baptist papers to reach us in Guatemala. In one and the same issue, Parks announced his resignation from the Foreign Mission Board, Criswell declared his lack of confidence in Southern Baptist institutions and his total

disrespect for those not in his camp ("those half infidels"), and the coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship indicated its desire to take over the support of missionaries who leave the Foreign Mission Board. Who is speaking for Baptist unity? Who believes in Southern Baptists?

I consider myself to be more conservative than Criswell — I am certainly not "moderate." But while it is one thing to wave the Bible in the air and say you are defending it, it is another thing to receive the Scriptures into your life and try to live by them. Let Criswell study his Bible: "The Lord hates everyone who is arrogant" (Prov. 16:5a, TEV). "Judge not that ye be judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged" (Matt. 7:1-2). The devil is the accuser of God's people. Even as good a man as Simon Peter discovered that the devil makes use of careless talkers (Matt. 16:23). Any one of us, in the weakness of advanced age, might say things that later we could eternally regret. The state Baptist papers neither serve the speaker nor the Baptist people in publishing such words of hate and division.

I regret Parks' decision and the pain it reflects and pray that he will be as supportive of Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program after his resignation as he was as

president of its largest agency. Has the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and its supporters considered the confusion, conflict, and division it will cause all around the globe by sending its own non-Convention missionaries to work with national entities in the same area as missionaries of the FMB? Is this their idea of "cooperative?"

Widely respected leaders on both ends of the Baptist continuum increasingly express their distaste, not only for one another, but for the great host of truly cooperative Baptist pastors, workers, missionaries, and laymen in the middle. I wish the Baptist Press would let them publish their poison elsewhere at their own expense and use our Baptist papers to affirm what God is doing among his loyal Southern Baptist people. The great majority of Southern Baptist missionaries will stick together under the Cooperative Program banner as long as loyal loving Southern Baptists hold the banner high.

Ted Lindwall,
missionary
Apartado 1135
Guatemala, C. A.

1918 — The Baptist Bible Institute, now the New Orleans Seminary, opened its doors. Many Mississippians were prominent in the founding of the seminary, including P. I. Lipsey and John T. Christian.

Faith Church plans camp meeting

Faith Church, Florence, will sponsor a week of "ole tyme camp meeting" at Camp Lancaster in Florence, June 15-19. Each evening's program will be from 6 until...

Among the preachers on program will be Dexter Truesdale, Wesley Enfinger, Ricky Moore, Pat McNair, David Shepherd, Mitch Herring, and James Sanders.

James and Nancy Corbett will provide special music.

"Spend the week at the camp or with a family. Meals furnished daily," said the Faith pastor, James E. Sanders. "If you plan to come and stay, please call by June 1."

For advance reservations or directions, call Judy Sutton at 845-8356; James Sanders at 372-1983; or Liz Hollingsworth at 845-8401.

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Adult/Youth Growth Starts Workshop April 27 - 30, 1992

Leaders

Dan Phillips, BSSB, Nashville

Larry Salter, MBCB, Jackson

Mon., April 27, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Greenville

Tues., April 28, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Briarwood Drive Baptist Church, Jackson

Wed., April 29, 9:30 - 12 noon

First Baptist Church, McComb

Thurs. April 30, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Wiggins

Leaders

Bob Buckner, Crossgates Church, Brandon

Mark Seanor, First Baptist Church, Roswell, Ga

Mon., April 27, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Horn Lake

Tues., April 28, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

East Corinth Baptist Church, Corinth

Wed., April 29 - 9:30 - 12 noon

First Baptist Church, Columbus

Thurs., April 30 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

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JACKSON — Mississippi Baptist Medical Center has proclaimed April 29 as "Student Day" to show special recognition to the students in its schools of medical technology and radiology. Executive director Kent Strum says MBMC is proud of its students' academic accomplishments, hard work, and commitment to the healthcare field. Pictured with Strum are Natalie Kinsey, left, radiography student, and John Teal, medical technology student.

Just for the Record

Westview Church, Jackson, will celebrate Easter Sunday morning with a 7 a.m. sunrise service. The service will be on the church grounds and will be led by James Buie, pastor.

First Church, Pearl, will present an Easter musical, "Calvary's Love," April 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. For ticket information call 939-4476. John T. Brock is pastor.

The Great Passion Play will be presented on video at Terry Road Church, Jackson, April 19 at 6 p.m.

First Church, Yazoo City, will have special services on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. featuring special music, the observance of the Lord's Supper, and a dramatization of "The Last Supper." Clifton Perkins is interim pastor.

The Northwest Rankin Ministers' Association has planned two community Easter celebrations. The first will be a Good Friday service held at Castlewoods Church, Brandon, on April 17, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Barry Cotter, pastor at St. Peter's-by-the-Lake Episcopal Church, will speak. Also, Easter Sunrise service will be held in the parking lot across from Rapids on the Reservoir, 6:30 a.m. Larry McDonald, pastor of Castlewoods, will speak. An offering will be taken for the work of the ministers' association at the sunrise service. In case of rain, the service will be held at Lakeside

Presbyterian Church.

The choir of Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will present the musical "The Father Hath Provided," April 19 at 6 p.m. Tim Daniels is pastor.

Country Woods Church, Jackson, will present "In The Gardens," April 19, at 6 p.m.

Reunion of Emmanuel Church, Hinds-Madison Association, will be held at Hinds Community College Lodge, Raymond, April 25 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dinner on the grounds will be served at 3 p.m.

Simpson Association Bible Conference will be held on April 27 at D'Lo Church and on April 28 at Eastside Church. Both services will be held at 7 p.m. Glen Schilling is director of missions.

Calvary Church, Meridian, will present Perfect Heart in concert in memory of Frank Birdsong Jr., April 30, at 7 p.m. H. M. Smith is pastor.

Mt. Vernon Church will hold a dedication service for its new church building, April 26. The old building and fellowship hall were destroyed by fire May 21, 1991. Mt. Vernon wished to express its gratitude to the Christians of Webster County, whose donations and kindness "strengthened and blessed" the church, according to Sonny Redwine, pastor.



Delta State University's BSU Team, "His Majesty's Players" used puppets to deliver the Sunday service recently at Strong Hope Church, Copiah Association. They are, from left: Leonard Curtis, Utica, team director; Joanna Joyce, Brookhaven, sound director; Kurt Kirton, Terry; Keli Massey, Wesson; Jeff Brownlee, New Albany; and Missy West, Vicksburg.

Mississippi native John A. Farmer dies

Former Mississippian John Alexander Farmer, 85, died in Columbia, S.C. April 4. Farmer was a pioneer Brotherhood leader and served as director of the Brotherhood Department in the South Carolina Convention for 26 years.

Born in Forest, Farmer attended Millsaps College, Jackson, and graduated from State Teachers College (now the University of Southern Mississippi) in Hattiesburg. He served as principal of Amory Elementary School in Amory. His first denominational service was as associate Sunday School director for Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, a post he held for six years.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn, and two daughters, all living in South Carolina.

Newton County passes resolution regarding Clarke

The Newton County Baptist Association executive committee recently passed a resolution concerning Clarke College, citing a need for a Baptist college in the geographic area still exists, and requesting that "the Clarke College properties and assets be turned over to the Mississippi Baptist Convention," according to Ron Gilstrap, moderator of the committee.

Revival dates

Macedonia, Northwest Association: April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; nightly, 7:30 p.m.; Jim Rice, Alton, Ill., evangelist; Ken and Sandra McNutt, Hannibal, Mo., music; Richard O'Bryan, pastor.

Cloverdale, Natchez: April 26; 7 p.m. nightly; Milton Prayer, First Church, Oak Grove, La., evangelist; nursery provided; Weyland Gaunt, pastor.

Crestview, Petal: April 19-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sam Jones, Destrehan, La., evangelist; nursery provided; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

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Staff changes

Julian B. (J.B.) Hays Jr. has accepted the call to become the pastor of First Church, Tutwiler. A native of Bowling Green, Ky., he received his education at Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, and Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin, Tenn.

Wallace Pannell will retire April 26 from the pastorate of Calvary Church, Booneville. A fellowship will be held in his honor, with lunch served, and afternoon services at 1:30. Pannell has been preaching for 43 years, and pastored churches in Union, Pontotoc, Tippah, and Prentiss Counties. He will be available for supply or interim pastor and can be contacted at Rt. 3, Box 247, Baldwyn, MS 38824 or call 365-3604.



Jason and Daniel Guthrie of Jackson are frequent violinists at First Church, Jackson, and other Mississippi churches. Jason, 19, left, graduated from Mississippi College last August. His plans are to pursue medical school. Daniel, 16, will graduate in May from Byram High School. They have played professionally across the nation. The Guthries will perform in "Naturally Spectacular," spring concert of the MC Naturals. Jerry Clower will also make a guest appearance. All proceeds will fund the Jerry Clower Scholarship Fund at MC. The concert time is at 8 p.m. April 23, in Swor Auditorium at MC. For ticket information, call 925-3248.

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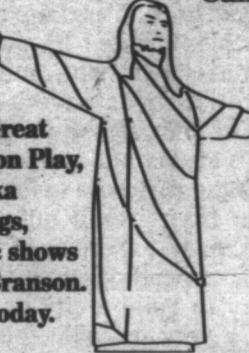
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COMMITTEE*From page 3*

Colleyville, Texas; Mike Goodwin; Hoyt Savage; and John Greene.

Jackson said he would encourage the committee to seek input from missionaries and Southern Baptists in general as they develop a profile and seek a candidate for a successor to Parks, a 38-year veteran of foreign missions who has served as president since 1980.

Asked if it was essential to follow the past pattern of naming a person with missionary experience as president, Jackson said the trustees' opinion is divided on that subject.

"About half the board feels it's mandatory to have missionary experience," he said. "Another large bloc is looking for the man and his ability to lead and his mission heart."

Asked if the committee would have a candidate by Oct. 30, Jackson said the search could take a year if the committee "does its work right." He said he feels the trustees would be willing for Parks to serve until a successor is found, but Parks said in an interview later he would stay no longer than Oct. 30.

Jackson also responded that Parks, who has expressed strong philosophical differences with the trustees, will retain full authority as president until Oct. 30 "as far as I'm concerned."

The question of Parks' disagreements with trustees resurfaced both in his official letter of retirement and as a result of a motion from the floor which would have asked him to remain in his position until 1995. Last August Parks asked to remain until that date but changed his mind in a spiritual retreat March 19-20 with trustees to resolve the issue of his tenure.

Trustee L.H. McCollough, from Bastrop, La., moved the trustees vote to support Parks as president and commit to his leadership through 1995.

However, during discussion of the motion, pointed questions were directed to Parks about views attributed to him in a Baptist Press story on an address he made to FMB staff after his return from the spiritual retreat.

Trustee Bill Blanchard, from Soddy Daisy, Tenn., read two paragraphs of the article which he said "caused me tremendous concern." The paragraphs said:

— "Parks also noted concern about a trend toward considering individuals qualified for denominational and missionary service only if their theology and politics are 'right.'

— "There are many people whose theology would be very conservative, even more conservative than some who are in control, but they aren't acceptable because they haven't endorsed the political activity within the denomination," he said.

Blanchard asked Parks if the article quoted him correctly and for him to name "just one person" who has been ruled out for political reasons. "I don't know of any like this," Blanchard said.

Parks said the quotes were correct, but then Hancock ruled both

the motion by McCollough and the discussion out of order because he felt it was inappropriate in a public forum and because trustees have expressed affirmation of Parks. Trustees sustained his ruling by an overwhelming majority.

Parks said he would have liked to answer the question but would honor the decision of the group. But he did comment, before proceeding with his presidential address: "The operative word there

(in the quote) was 'trend' and I think it's true."

"I disagree with Dr. Parks," Jackson told reporters later. "I don't see the trends he sees." He said he doesn't know of anyone rejected for missionary service and trustees have followed staff recommendations.

"We're not going to bring the creedal approach," Jackson said. "I hope my chairmanship is similar to Bill Hancock's, which has been

fair and spiritual. I think my role (as chairman) is to be very objective and fair-minded and have the ability to foresee future problems."

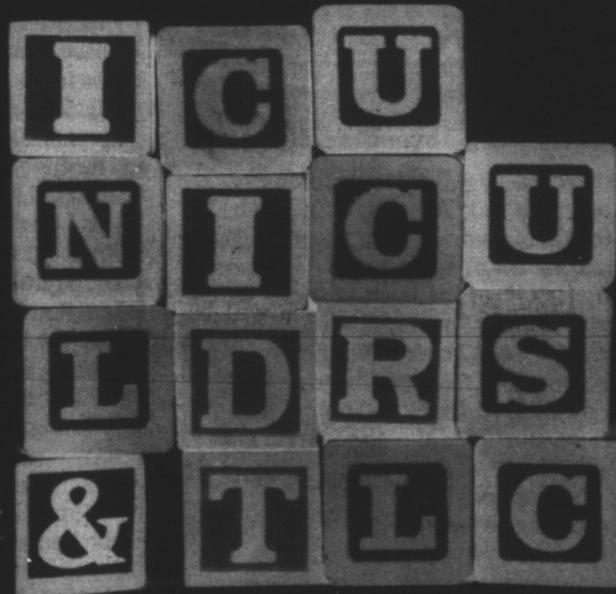
Commenting on philosophical differences with trustees Parks has expressed, Jackson said: "We will never find anyone who is in full philosophical agreement with all trustees. You've got 88 different opinions. That will depend on the leader and how he can serve. I hope his resignation is not because

of philosophical differences. He said it was because God had led him to do so."

Parks has said his retirement came as a result of God's leadership at the spiritual retreat in Dallas-Fort Worth but that leadership came in the context of differences in the Southern Baptist controversy which made his role as president impractical.

O'Brien and Martin write for FMB.

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LIFE AND WORK

Proclaiming the triumph



By Lola M. Autry
Matthew 27:57-28:20

The story is told of Cathy Norman, a church organist who overslept on the morning of the Easter sunrise service. The next year she received a phone call at 5:45 a.m. The message was, "Christ is risen, and you'd better be, too." That should be the message to all of us. Christ is risen and we need to be about the business of committed witnessing of the triumphant risen Christ and his kingdom.

Some of the women visit Jesus' grave (v. 1). It was nearing dawn of the first day of the week — the end of the Sabbath after the crucifixion of Jesus. Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses and Salome, came to the tomb where Jesus' body was laid. On the day of his burial the two women had sat, mourning, against the sepulchre (Mark 16:1-2, Matt. 27:61). Now that the Sabbath was past, they had come to anoint his body.

An angel announces Jesus' resurrection (vv. 5-6). They never had a chance to accomplish their purpose. Instead of the dead body of Jesus, they found an angel. Verse 3 says, "His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow." He spoke. In our everyday language his message was: "Don't be afraid, I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He's not here. He told you he would rise, and he has. Come inside and see the place where the Lord lay."

I visited the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem recently. Stooping to enter through the low, narrow opening into the cave, my eyes were riveted to the hewn couch at my right. It was protected by wrought iron grating, but that was not the focal point. Even though I knew there was no physical body there, I was almost overwhelmed by that empty rock slab because the message was so overpowering: "He is not here. He is risen."

The women are instructed to tell the disciples (vv. 7-8). The angel had something else to tell the women. He had something important for them to do. Throughout God's Word, there are instructions for us to follow — important things to do for his kingdom. Not the least of these are the commandments "go" and "tell." The angel said, "Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there ye shall see him." The angel said one more thing: "Lo, I have told you." The women ran to tell the disciples the good news about Jesus. How jubilant and excited are we about telling of this triumphant Jesus and his kingdom?

The women encounter the risen Lord (vv. 9-10). Notice — as they went to tell the disciples, Jesus met them. They held him by the feet and worshiped him. What a powerful lesson this teaches. When we go about doing what we should in Jesus' name, he is with us. We cannot physically hold onto him, but spiritually we can. He told the women not to be afraid. He sends the same message to each of us who follow him.

Jesus commissions his disciples (vv. 16, 18, 20). A great preacher once said, "The real meaning of the resurrection is, 'The death of Death in the death of Christ.'" Because of his death, burial, and resurrection, the death of sin was sure. The empty tomb has a message. From the standpoint of science, it says, "Explain this, if you can." To history, it challenges, "Repeat this, if you can." To time, it dares, "Make the empty tomb go away, if you can." To all comes the call, "Believe. Only believe."

Jesus met the eleven disciples at an appointed place. There he spoke of his all-encompassing power. Then he commissioned them: "Go, teach, baptize." Go where? Everywhere. Teach whom? Everyone. Teach what? To observe all the things he had commanded them. Then came a promise: "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

We who know Jesus as our Lord and Savior are also commissioned even as the disciples were, "Go and tell." Commitment to him is the catalyst to obedience. The angel told the women, "Lo, I have told you." We have been told also, Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.

BIBLE BOOK

Encountering the risen Lord



By Charles Nestor
John 20:1-2, 11-20

This week we celebrate the central event of Christian faith. The resurrection gives significance and meaning to all other events. If Jesus had remained in the tomb, the plan of salvation would not have been completed. Christianity is the only faith that can claim a living God. Christ was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, but he was also the first fruits of the resurrection. Therefore, every Christian has the assurance of everlasting life.

We realize that promise as we encounter the risen Christ. The first Easter was a dramatic time for Mary Magdalene and the disciples. Jesus had told them he would rise from the dead, but they really did not comprehend those words. However, the picture began to come into focus when they discovered the empty tomb. The picture became more focused when he entered their presence and conveyed his blessing of peace.

1. **Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb (20:1-2).** Mary was first to arrive at the tomb. There was great love in her heart for the Lord. She had been a profound sinner, and Jesus did something for her that no one else could do. He forgave her sins and cleansed her life. Now in the early morning hours she came to the tomb. It was probably around 3 a.m. When she arrived she discovered the stone had been moved from the door. She knew someone had been there and presumed the body of Christ to be gone. Her first thought was to tell Peter and John. She found them, and they came to the tomb. Mary probably concluded that either the Romans had removed the body or it was the act of grave robbers, a common practice of the New Testament period. It never occurred to Mary that Jesus had risen from the dead, though he had told this to his disciples several times.

2. **The risen Lord appears to Mary (20:11-18).** We observe Mary in the tomb weeping because Christ was missing. The angels present asked her why she was crying. Mary responded that it was "because they have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have laid him." Then she mistook Jesus for the gardener. However, when he called her by name she joyfully acknowledged him and fell at his feet. Mary attempted to cling to Jesus; holding to the person she knew before the crucifixion. Jesus insisted that she could not cling to him. In the resurrection Jesus broke the bonds of sin and death, the limitations of time and space, and the weaknesses of earthly living. The power of God formed a new creation. Jesus returned to his Father, but the Holy Spirit will be present to provide the abiding presence of the Lord.

At this time, Mary was commanded to tell the disciples what she had seen and heard. Instead of allowing her to cling to him, Jesus sent Mary on a mission to tell others what she had experienced. In like manner, we are sent out to proclaim that the tomb is empty; the Savior lives. There is a temptation today to spend all our time in study, in meetings, in seminars, in witnessing classes, or discipleship courses. These are all good but they are not an end in and of themselves. Once we have encountered the resurrected Christ, we must deal with the command to go and tell what we have seen and heard.

3. **The risen Lord appears to others (20:19-20).** It was evening time on the resurrection day, and Jesus appeared to the disciples. They were gathered in a closed room, anxious and scared. They were sure that the enemies of Christ would eventually seek their lives. Jesus had told them to expect the world to hate them. Then Jesus appeared and stood in their midst. His presence was the assurance that he would be with them forever. His greeting to them was words of peace: "Peace be with you." The gift of peace is the fruit of salvation Christ secured on the cross. He showed them the nail prints in his hands and the wound in his side, evidence of the victory he shared with them in his peace. He was wounded for our transgressions, and by his stripes we are healed. We are to take this great message of hope to a lost and dying world. There are two basic truths to proclaim: Jesus is alive and Jesus is Lord. The implications are that we must choose him, we must serve him, and we must share him. He is the only way to the Father, and our mission is to communicate that to the world. Our testimony should parallel that of Paul: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20, NASV).

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

Meaning of the resurrection



By Bobby Williamson
Mark 15:42-16:8

What significance does the resurrection of Jesus Christ hold for Christians? That may seem like a simple question, but it holds a profound message with monumental consequences. What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean to you?

I. Jesus' burial (15:42-47).

In verses 42-45 Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for Jesus' body, and when Pilate knew that Jesus was dead, he granted Joseph's request. Here was a man, Jesus, who had just been crucified. Most of those that had associated with him had conveniently faded into the background, and many denied that they had ever known him. Here we find Joseph of Arimathea making a daring request for the body of Jesus. What an encouragement for each of us. Joseph was ministering for Christ. Should we do less?

Who was this man Joseph? Here he is called an honorable counselor. He clearly is a person of distinction and character, and Christians with these characteristics will want to minister for Christ. Joseph's burying Jesus' body should motivate us to seek ways to express our love for Jesus.

II. The women's discovery of the open tomb (16:1-5).

When the Sabbath was past, three women went to the tomb and found that it was open. Once again we are reminded of the wonderful ministry of women throughout the ages. God has called the men of our churches to pastor, and to serve as deacons, but this in no way belittles the role of the woman in our churches. I am convinced that many of our churches today would have ceased to be in existence except for the ministry of women.

III. The announcement of Jesus' resurrection (16:6).

After the women had entered the tomb and seen a young man there, the young man announced that Jesus had been raised from the dead and would meet the disciples in Galilee. This first of all points out that Jesus was not dead, and his body had not been stolen. One of God's messengers, an angel, had confirmed this fact. Hallelujah, Jesus is not dead! He's alive, and that is the message of Easter!

IV. The charge to the women (16:7-8).

Jesus had an appointment with his disciples, and the women were to let them know he was coming. All of the meetings between Christ and his disciples were of his own appointing. Christ does not forget an appointment. Why were the women afraid? Possibly because it seemed too good to be true. Our fears often keep us from serving Christ in the manner in which we should.

There are many significant lessons that we can learn from our lesson this week. One of the most important is the announcement that Jesus was not dead, but risen. We take for granted that everyone knows this, especially in our churches and in our communities. If everyone knows that he is alive, then why aren't Christians living as though the living Lord is alive in their hearts? If Jesus truly conquered death, that we might conquer death and live more abundantly, then why aren't we living in such a manner?

And ultimately, why are we not feverishly telling a lost and dying world about a risen Lord? If Jesus had stayed in the tomb, we would have no message, but he did not! And thus we have the greatest message to share with this world. Let us remember this week that Jesus was raised in triumph over death and lives today to lead and empower his people.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

**Feb. 1, 1992 -
Feb. 29, 1992**

MEMORIALS

Mr. Stanley McPhail
Mr. & Mrs. Bill C. Wilson
Joe Lee McWilliams
Mrs. M. L. McWilliams
Mrs. Kate McWilliams
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Leshe
Mrs. Hilda C. Middleton
Mr. & Mrs. Harris Swayze
Mrs. Ruth C. Swindoll
Mrs. B. F. Townsend
Mr. R. M. Miley
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bailey
Dr. Elise M. Curtis
Mrs. Lee Miller
Louisiana Shorthorn Association
Mrs. Evelyn A. Mitchell
Mr. E. W. Permenter
Mrs. Ethel Wright Mohamed
Mrs. Sidney B. Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton Jr.
Mr. Donald G. Mullins

Dr. Ben J. Moore
Jodi Hardy
Mrs. Jean C. Robison
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Weems
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Hendrix
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Thompson Jr.
Mr. Joe M. Moore
Mrs. Edith Aldridge
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Powers
Mrs. Blanch Moore
Mrs. Margueritte C. Howell
Randy Moore
Mrs. M. L. McWilliams
Brother of Mrs. J. W. Mosley
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
Paul Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Bert Mize
Mrs. Myrtle Myers
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Scarborough
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Knight
Mr. Cecil Henry Myrick
First Baptist Church
Mr. Arnold Neal
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carroll
Mr. C. Braxton Neal
Mrs. Alice P. Miley

(To be continued)

This word floods our memory with happy thoughts. From earliest childhood the word Easter evokes memories of new clothes, new flowers, and an elusive bunny that left colorful eggs and other goodies. For many of us who were blessed to have Christian parents Easter afforded them an excellent opportunity to tell us of a Savior who died for our sins and then rose again on that Easter Morning to give us the assurance of life eternal with Him.

Some still feel that Easter is only for children and they may not be far wrong, for Jesus said, "I tell you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it". (Mark 10:15)

Easter is always an exciting time here at The Village. This year that is especially true because of the growing number of younger children who have come to us. They are so excited about Easter and the promises of Spring. Pray for our staff and workers as they use this time to share "the most wonderful story ever told".



Today begins promotion for our 1992 **Dress A Child at Easter** appeal. Your gifts now will assure these children of a beautiful spring and will undergird a promise for a sure future.

For the past several years our Easter appeal has fallen short of expected goals. Our goal for Easter '92 is \$85,000.

Please help us to assure our children of a bright and certain tomorrow.

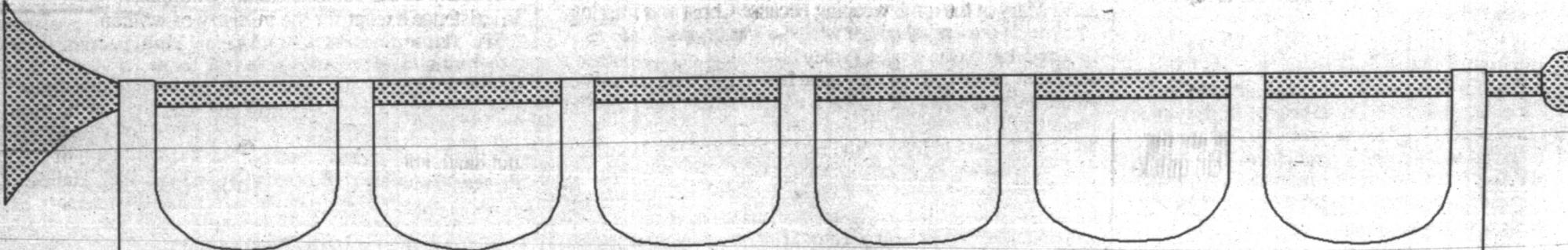
The BCV is your family. These are your children. Their future is in your hands. Please help me to assure our children - your children that they are loved and are "special" at this Easter season.

Thank you for standing with me and with Mississippi's Largest Family.

I am humbly,

RONNY E. ROBINSON
Executive Director

RER:ct



Community EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sponsored by: The Baptist Children's Village
Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton
First Baptist Church, Clinton

Location: The Baptist Children's Village
(In front of Powell Chapel)
805 Flag Chapel Drive
****Bring a lawn chair or blanket****

Message Dr. Ken Alford
Pastor, Morrison Heights Baptist Church

Music: Bill and Martha Bacon
First Baptist Church, Clinton

Ensemble 16
First Baptist Church, Clinton

Time: 7:00 A.M. Sunday, April 19, 1992

Japanese executive carves place for faith

By Michael Chute

TOKYO (BP) — It's crunch time for Toshio Morita.

A blue-suited, designated "shover" in white gloves herds Morita and other commuters into every square inch of a Tokyo-bound train.

Jostling people jockey for a spot; Morita gets pushed to the back of the car. No one, including Morita, seems to mind.

Before sunrise every morning, this Japanese Baptist businessman sets out by bus for Yokohama train station. The "express" train gets him downtown in 80 minutes. A brisk six-block jaunt puts him through the front doors of Toto Ltd.'s international headquarters. The entire trip takes two hours. At 6 p.m. he does it all over again.

Morita, customer service manager for a Toto subsidiary, just built a home in a new Yokohama housing development. Market value for the 1,000-square-foot house: \$800,000. Morita pays for it with his \$100,000-a-year salary. Plans call for extending the subway line to this area in a couple of years. But Morita's commute is not considered far by Japanese standards. A typical trip is three hours one way.

Still, Morita leaves before dawn and gets home after dark.

This is the down side of "Japan Inc." that produces a curious mix of Japanese self-satisfaction and frustration. Citizens give their country mixed reviews: Its world success in finance and technology brings pride, but exorbitant housing costs, forced social conformity and a living standard that allows few frills cause sometimes deadly stress.

A top-level executive, Morita is where most Japanese would like to be. He's made it — he is among the top 30% who graduated from college and entered Toto's corporate ranks when he did.

He's also an excellent Christian example to employees: conscientious, honest, dependable. His disposition is calm, stoic, disciplined. All are values Japanese admire.

Morita often invites Toto co-workers to the home he and his wife, Yuriko, designed themselves — a "great room" layout with living, dining, and kitchen areas all in one large room. They specifically built it this way as a house church. They feel God gave them the property and opportunity to start their housing development's first Baptist church.



Toshio Morita rides "express" train to work.

More than 300,000 people already live in the growing area.

"(Co-workers) understand why my house is built the way it is, a little different from the average Japanese home," says Morita, a member of Kawasaki Baptist Church. "We don't have a sofa in our living room."

"With Western furniture (taking up space), many people could not attend the meeting. So we just use cushions on the floor."

The 52-year-old Baptist layman plans to go into full-time Christian work when he retires at the customary age of 60. "If I can work here for God, that's what I want to do," he says. "I'll preach, if I can. I've preached several times in the pastor's absence."

Morita knows the house church approach works. A colleague with Toto who attended such a church led him to faith in Christ when Morita was 35.

Although his family was Buddhist, Morita had some early exposure to Christianity. In World War II-devastated Japan, education was scarce. U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur requested 10,000 missionaries for Japan and young Morita attended a

school the Disciples of Christ operated near his home. A bright student, Morita later graduated from prestigious Waseda University. In 1962 he joined Toto, a worldwide plumbing supply house.

It's not easy serving Christ in Japanese corporate life, where loyalty to the company takes priority. For Christians, the "loyalty" issue can produce a myriad of stresses and rejection.

By the early 1970s the Moritas lived in company-owned housing, still a common sight in Japan. Unlike her husband, Yuriko earlier had professed faith in Christ while a student at Baptists' Seinan Jo Gakuin school in Kitakyushu. After she married, however, Yuriko didn't go to church. But a Christian who lived in their housing unit invited the Moritas to a home Bible meeting. She attended; he didn't.

However, contact with this Christian began to affect Morita. When the man

invited them to a revival meeting at Kawasaki church, he agreed to go. It was the first time he had ever entered a church building.

Five months later he accepted Christ as Savior and was baptized. Nearly 20 years later, he serves Kawasaki church as Sunday School teacher and director, deacon, church treasurer, choir member, and anything else the church asks.

It's not easy serving Christ in Japanese corporate life, where loyalty to the company takes priority. For Christians, the "loyalty" issue can produce a myriad of stresses and rejection. Young Japanese often regard church attendance "too restrictive" for their already-controlled lives. Older Japanese often charge that Christianity's emphasis on the individual undercuts Japan's homogeneous social fabric. Some Japanese even call Christians' devotion to church "unpatriotic."

Morita tries to play it down, but he's successfully balanced company and church. A product and beneficiary of Japanese society, he's proof it is possible to be Japanese and Christian at the same time.

Morita is the only Christian most of his colleagues know personally.

And he's not just a Christian on Sundays. He has carved out a place for Christian faith in Toto's high-tech, freewheeling marketplace. Some fellow workers have accepted Christ through his influence.

"Everyone in the office knows I'm a Christian and they know I go to church," he says. "When new people come into the company I always tell them I'm a Christian, but usually they've already been told. If I do the work, my being a Christian is no problem."

In recent years, younger Japanese have been growing weary of the society's notoriously long workdays. Jobs often keep workers out four nights a week entertaining clients and co-workers. Even leisure time traditionally belongs to the company. Offices regularly choose Sundays for employee activities after a six-day workweek.

But changes overtaking Japanese business could help Christianity in the marketplace. Major businesses are beginning to close on weekends, realizing too much work makes duller, less productive workers.

Company activities on Sundays are becoming fewer. For instance, companies now usually hold golf outings, a favorite among Japanese businessmen, on Saturdays. And although work units still demand workers to take customary outings together, these trips now tend to be overnight excursions on Fridays.

"Japanese think highly of Christianity, but becoming a Christian is a different thing," Morita says. "I have different kinds of opportunities to share my faith. I invite co-workers to church, but there's not much chance of them coming. Usually there's no reaction."

"But one of the women who worked for me became a Christian. There were many influences in her life and I was the first Christian she ever met. If I had been a bad influence, she probably wouldn't have become a Christian."

The woman married another Christian and Morita enjoys their friendship. Corporate life can be lonely for Christians in Japan. But if more Japanese become Christians and values change, it could become easier for Morita and other believers to serve Christ.

Chute writes for FMB.

Tribute to a team leader

Missions is Horace Glass's middle name

By Bill Kent Jr.

Missions is Horace Glass's middle name. He was not satisfied with maintaining the status quo in his position as director of associational missions in George and Greene counties in Mississippi. Truly, he has shown by his example that a director of missions is a team leader on the rugged frontier of real live missions which is the bones and marrow of Southern Baptist work. At home and abroad, he has been a facilitator, for new church starts, missions giving, and mission organization.

He responded to a challenge given in 1977 for Southern Baptists in established areas to go into pioneer

areas and assist them in evangelizing and building churches. In 1978 the fledgling George-Greene Association, consisting of 29 churches, 5,600 resident members, began a "Bold Mission Thrust." These Bold Mission projects were a cooperative effort of about 15 of our men going into a pioneer area — especially California and Nevada assisting them in the construction of new church buildings.

In all, the men from George and Greene counties have built 12 churches since 1978. Remarkably, the men who participated in these ventures often paid their own way, unless their church sponsored them, and took vacation time from their jobs in order

to go. For example: Jack Brewer, a carpenter for Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, carried lumber and his carpentry skills to nail up boards. Joe Dickerson, a construction supervisor, supervised the work crew to make a smooth operation. These men are "living epistles" telling each man, woman, and child in the pew that you don't have to be a preacher to go on a mission trip and spreading the gospel is the duty of all Christians.

Also, Glass has instigated successful mission work in George and Greene counties. In particular, Vernal Mission was established in an area of southern Greene county which had no Southern Baptist witness.

Glass has also led in the develop-

ment of a cohesive and stable associational organization. Elected officers now exist to minister to the particular needs of the community — from youth to discipleship training to missions to Sunday School to a food bank. It is a broad and comprehensive ministry. Plus, the association secured property and recently remodeled an old church building in the Bexley Community in George County on Highway 98 to be the office of the association.

Although his health has forced Glass to retire, (Nov. 1991) the new director of missions, John Henry, has a solid foundation from which to work in carrying out the Great Commission.

Glass is pastor, New Hope.

Baptist Record

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April 16, 1992